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FBIS 52 ''''''

IRANIAN AIR FORCE SPOKESMAN ON U.S. PLANE CRASH

NC251235 PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH 1231 GMT 25 APR 80

(TEXT) TEHRAN, APRIL 25 (AFP)--A CHASE BY IRANIAN AIR FORCE PLANES CAUSED THE COLLISION TODAY OF TWO UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT ON A MISSION TO RESCUE THE U.S. EMBASSY HOSTAGES HERE, AN IRANIAN AIR FORCE SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED TODAY.

THE SPOKESMAN DENIED HOWEVER THAT IRANIAN AIRCRAFT HAD OPENED FIRE ON THE AMERICAN PLANES.

HE SAID THAT PREVIOUS REPORTS THAT THE COLLISION HAD INVOLVED A C-130 TRANSPORT PLANE AND A HELICOPTER WERE FALSE, BUT DECLINED TO SPECIFY WHAT KIND OF U.S. PLANES WERE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION.

25 APR 1249Z JU/CAJ ''''''